

REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed September 8, 2008. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-5, 9 and 12-14 were pending in this application, and all were rejected.

Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and submit that the references relied upon for rejecting the claims do not teach or suggest, individually or in combination, what is being claimed in independent Claim 1 and all claims dependent thereto.

The rejections of the dependent claims will not be discussed individually herein, as each of these claims depends, either directly or indirectly, from an otherwise allowable base claim.

Claims 1-5, 9 and 12-14 been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,787,000 to Lilly, et al. (hereinafter “Lilly”) in view of Layden (“A Rapidly Changing Landscape”) (hereinafter “Layden”) and further in view of Manugistics5, as disclosed in “Manugistics Introduces Industry’s Only Extended Supply Chain Management Solution” (hereinafter “Manugistics”)

Claims 1-5, 9 and 12-14 have been canceled.

None of the references relied upon teach or suggest, individually or in combination, the limitations of new claims 71-73. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 72 and 73 are similar to but not the same as some of the claims in commonly owned United States Patent No. 7,346,530; originally incorporated by reference in the instant patent application. Upon indication of allowance of the new claims presented herein, a terminal disclaimer will be provided if the necessity of one is indicated by the Examiner. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is included herewith.

Applicants reserve the right to subsequently take up prosecution on the claims as originally filed in this or appropriate continuation, continuation-in-part and/or divisional applications.

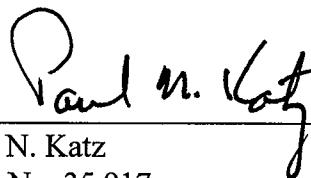
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in light of the new claims and remarks contained herein.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all objections and rejections, and that there be an early notice of allowance.

SUMMARY

In light of the above new claims and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of the same is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone or facsimile.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul N. Katz
Reg. No. 35,917

Baker Botts L.L.P.
910 Louisiana
One Shell Plaza
Houston, Texas 77002-4995
Telephone: 713.229.1343
Facsimile: 713.229.7743
E-Mail: Paul.Katz@bakerbotts.com

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